NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. The Lithuanian Seimas on 4 April decided to hold a secret no-confidence vote in Deputy Chairman Juozas Bernatonis. The opposition proposed the motion, saying that Bernatonis had acted improperly on 12 March when he ended a Seimas session before a vote on a resolution on Chechnya could be taken. Bernatonis has said he acted properly. It seems unlikely that the no-confidence motion will get the necessary 71 votes because deputies of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party will not participate in the ballot. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

RUSSIAN DESERTERS LEAVE LITHUANIA. Russian soldiers Alexander Vaselkov and Ruslan Kurdiukov, who asked for political asylum in Lithuania on 27 March to avoid serving in Chechnya, were handed over to representatives of the Russian embassy in Vilnius on 4 April and then returned to Kaliningrad. The pair had requested to return to Russia, apparently appeased by embassy officials who assured them they would not be punished or sent to Chechnya. Lithuanian Foreign Ministry officials said they had no grounds to reject Russia's repeated requests to extradite the soldiers because the two countries signed a legal assistance treaty providing for the return of criminals. Moreover, Lithuania has not yet passed a law on refugee status and therefore cannot grant political asylum. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER IN ESTONIA, LITHUANIA. Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, visited Vilnius on 6 April where he met with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius Carlsson said Lithuania could count on Sweden's support to join the European Union and asserted that Sweden would not remain indifferent if Lithuania were attacked by an aggressor. He also discussed the problems of refugees trying to reach Sweden through the Baltic States and the safety of the atomic power plant at Ignalina. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.